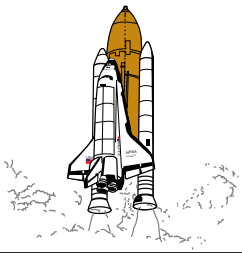


Processing Highlights

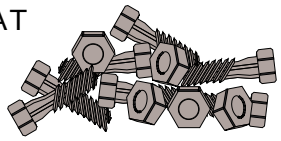
"Here's how we can, not why we can't!"

Vol. 6, No. 1
April 1998

FIRST Competition

Students at Titusville and Astronaut High Schools, one of whom is my son, competed in the FIRST robotics competition this year with help from Boeing engineers at KSC. The team name is ComBBAT, an acronym (never too early to teach our children acronyms) for its sponsors: NASA, Boeing, Brevard Community College, and Astronaut and Titusville High Schools. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is billed as one of the most exceptional, far-reaching, and rewarding school and industry partnership programs around. FIRST is a nonprofit organization that encourages young people to pursue careers in science and engineering.

ComBBAT competed in the Southwest Regionals held in Houston on March 3-5 and finished twelfth of 21 teams. The ComBBAT robot, Christine, was voted Most Photogenic. As you can see, this competition is more than just nuts and bolts engineering. The format is modeled on athletic and other competitions.



The Nationals were held at EPCOT on April 3 and 4. Over 200 teams participated. For more information about ComBBAT visit ***http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/external/bbat***, and for FIRST visit ***http://www.usfirst.org***.

NASA MM has also partnered with Merritt Island and Satellite High Schools in sponsoring a team. Space Coast also competed in the Southwest Regional in Houston and will also be competing at Nationals. For more information about Space Coast visit: ***http://scorpnet.brevard.k12.fl.us/scorpnet/spages/first***.

See the robots in action at the KSC All American Picnic.

Arthur E. Beller

Director's Corner

As expected, 1998 will be a year of significant change for our organization as well as for KSC. At this time, over one-third of the PH personnel are devoting some of their time to new development or advanced programs. We have reached the phase of our transition with the contractor where the more critical and complex procedures must be addressed. This will require us to develop our surveillance techniques, integrate our surveillance requirements with the other organizations involved in Shuttle processing, and develop confidence in this system and the information it provides, such that the correct transition decisions can be made.

We will adjust to our new organizational structure with all engineering consolidated in Process Engineering and all project functions integrated into Process Integration.

We will also execute our responsibilities with fewer personnel and wish our "Alumni" the best of success in their new organizations, new careers, or retirement!

R. B. Sieck

Shuttle Trivia

The External Tank is covered with a thermal protection system (insulation) which, if spread on the ground, would cover nearly one-half acre.

NASA Facts

APPLAUSE !!

Organizational Highlight

Process Engineering (PK) Surveillance

The PK systems engineers will have three primary roles on the Shuttle program after transition of routine operations to the Shuttle Flight Operations Contractor. These include participating in out-of-family problem resolution, performing launch and landing activities, and verifying SFOC processes are stable and capable. These roles will be performed under the framework of a comprehensive surveillance plan.

PK is not directly involved in routine processing, but maintains insight into the SFOC core processes through surveillance. The surveillance plan provides a systematic approach to collecting three essential pieces of data: subjective data on contractor document generation and task execution; management information system data; and Shuttle system performance data. The analysis of this data provides the information necessary to evaluate the performance as well as the Shuttle's flight worthiness (CoFR). This information also provides a means for trouble-shooting problems in processes and determining root causes.

As we move from a role of oversight to one of insight, the surveillance plan provides the framework. We are teaming with the NASA Industrial Engineering group and with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to streamline and improve our insight process. This streamlining will allow the engineers to devote more time to new development and upgrade projects.

Steve Minute

Congratulations

To ***John Guidi,*** new Chief of Test Management Branch, Launch and Landing Division.

Employee Of The Month

January	**- Sue Gross**
February	**- Leslie Boatright**
March	**- Arthur Beller**
April	**- Sharon Sowash**

Employee Spotlight

Steve Payne built model airplanes and rockets as a kid and figured when he grew up he would play with real ones. He also wanted to travel and see the world. So after graduating from high school, Steve left his home in Puerto Rico and came to the United States. He attended Syracuse University in upstate New York and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering. In 1984, he joined the Navy and became a fighter pilot flying the F-14 Tomcat. After six years of active duty stationed in Florida, Texas, Virginia, and Hawaii, he left the Navy and came to KSC.

He began his space career in 1990 working payload operations engineering in the OPF for Lockheed. One year later, he jumped at an opportunity to work for NASA in the Payload Operations Division as a Shuttle Payload Leader. There he coordinated pad, OPF, and SLF payload activities. In 1994, he transferred to the Vehicle Integration Test Team where he provided engineering liaison to the astronaut office at JSC. That same year, Steve earned a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Central Florida.

In 1996, Steve became a NASA Test Director working launches and landings. He recently qualified as Ground Operations Manager for Transoceanic Abort Landing sites. His travels with NASA have taken him to California, Texas, Morocco, France, and Spain.

Steve and his wife Olga live in east Orlando with their daughter Rachel. He enjoys traveling, playing with his guitar and his computer, singing in the church choir, and spending time being a dad. In his spare time, he continues his association with the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy reserve.

Space Flight Awareness Launch Honorees

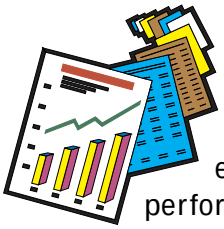
STS-86:
Peter Chitko and ***Tim O'Brien***
STS-89:
Jean Flowers and ***Greg Breznik***

Opportunity in Industrial Engineering

Industrial engineering (IE) technologies and capabilities are essential to NASA's ability to respond to the challenge "better, faster, cheaper, and safer." To effectively and efficiently manage the SFOC and the other programs we in PH are involved in, all of us need to strengthen certain skills and tools. The basis of these critical tools lies in the IE discipline. I would like to announce and support an opportunity for PH personnel to acquire these skills.

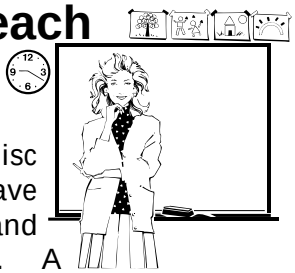
The Industrial Engineering Group in PZ is looking for talented engineers to assist them. This is a wonderful opportunity, especially for PK personnel, to gain this much needed experience. Openings are now available on a rotational basis; PK personnel have an opportunity to learn these skills and then bring them back to support PK's mission. An IE degree is ***not*** a requirement; if you have taken classes in the engineering management master's program, completed the statistical process control workshops, or simply have an interest in process management and improvement, you should pursue this opportunity.

IE involves applying science and technology to process management and improvement. IE tools include: process analysis; human factors engineering; process simulation modeling; statistical analysis; work methods engineering; decision analysis; performance metrics; benchmarking; and scheduling systems. A few of the current projects of the IE team are: partnering with the contractor in the identification of processing efficiencies which will enable KSC to achieve Program launch rate goals; assisting PH in the development and implementation of its metrics and surveillance activities; and supporting the Shuttle Processing Human Factors Team, the KSC Benchmarking Clearinghouse, and the Work Instruction Task Team.



I encourage everyone to explore this opportunity. If you are interested or need more information, please call **Harry Heimmer** at **861-0407**.

Educational Outreach



If you need a presentation on Shuttle Processing, transparencies, slides and a disc are available for loan. Also have slides of astronauts, wildlife, and Mir; videos and space food. A vacuum bell jar is ready to take to local schools for experimental presentations. **Cindy Coddington**

A Change Of Perspective

All Shuttle Processing secretaries will be viewing the directorate from a new perspective as they each occupy a desk in the PH front office for at least 3 half days during the upcoming months. Senior secretaries have been asked to mentor the secretaries (including terms and temps) in their directorates to encourage a consistent standard of quality in products, comportment, and dress. Secretaries can become familiar with the Headquarters Building and meet the people they may know only as voices on the phone.

Sue Gross

Spinoff

Recycled Milk Bottles

Information from NASA's Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program says that milk bottle blankets made of recycled plastic milk bottles are a new spinoff from NASA's research into the development of lightweight metal insulation for spacecraft. Using the same "honeycomb" concept that will be used to make future spacecraft metal heat barriers, researchers working with Ames Research Center have created a lightweight, plastic insulation for blankets and clothing that is "better than wool." Like wool, the new material can also keep a person warm, even when it is wet.

"The blankets are better than wool or fleece because they are nonallergenic, and they dry five times faster. The new material is also four times warmer than wool in cold and damp conditions," said Principal Investigator Steve Miller of S.D. Miller & Associates, Flagstaff, Arizona. "We plan to work with ambulance companies and Red Cross chapters to fully evaluate the use of the blankets."

Aerospace Technology Innovation

Arbor Day

Friday, April 24, 1998

The National Arbor Day Foundation announced the John Denver Memorial Grove. Memorial donations will fund planting of trees for wildlife habitat in a national forest. Mr. Denver made national television and radio public service announcements for "Trees for America."

The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska in 1872 following a state proclamation urging settlers and homesteaders to plant trees. More than one million trees were planted on the first Arbor Day.

Happynings

Congratulations and Best Wishes to:

Christie and **Joel Wells** !

Shari and **Phil Bianco** !

Jenny and **Doug Lyons** welcomed **Hannah** !

Colleen and **Dean Orr** welcomed **Vance** !

Thought for the Day

There cannot be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full. ***Henry Kissinger***

Remember This:

April 20 - 24	National Secretaries Week
April 22	KSC Secretary Breakfast - Mission Briefing Rm.
April 23	Take Our Daughters To Work Day
April 28 - May 1	35th Space Congress - Horizons Unlimited
May 16	KSC All American Picnic
May 25	Memorial Day

See us on the website

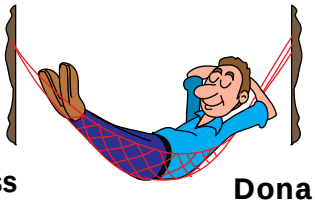
http://www-ph.ksc.nasa.gov/ph.htm

On the Move

Reassigned

Cristina Guidi	PK-D2 to AD
Mike Leinbach	PZ-A3 to ST
Amanda Mitzkevich	PZ-A to BL
Suzy Cunningham	PK-H to AD
Melanie Chan	PK-D to MM
Mike Wetmore	PH-B to PZ
John Madura	PH-B3 to AA-C-1
Frank Merceret	PH-B3 to AA-C-1
Steve Lewis	PK-D2 to ST
Angela Brewer	PK-F to PK-D
Greg Meeks	PZ-A3 to ST
Tami Mitchell	PK-E2 to MK
Suzanne Hilding - Detail	PK-E to PH
Carol Dunn - Detail	PK to MM
Ed Markowski - Detail	PH-E to HM
Jamie Palou - Detail	PH-B3 to LO-G3

Retired



Nora Ross
Sharon Sowash
Joyce Bodor
Jim Harrington
Gerry Gibson
Frank Johnson
Warren Lackie

Donald Halsema
Gene Sestile
Larry Rayburn
John McBrearty
Gerry Talley
Bascom Murrah

Resigned

Thomas Beever

Earth Day

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

The Earth Flag was designed in 1970 by Earth Day founder John McConnell. The flag was inspired by the photographs of the Earth taken during the Apollo 10 mission in 1969. Earth Day is a worldwide celebration on April 22, to promote ecology, encourage respect for life on Earth, and highlight the problem of pollution.

Processing Highlights - Editor - Cindy Coddington, PH

STAFF: Regina Clifton/PH-B, Helen Johnson/PH-E, Alanda Johnson/PK, Chris Weaver/PZ

Processing Highlights is published every other month for the Shuttle Processing Directorate to provide current PH news and information. Direct inquiries and suggestions to the editor.

Published by Lcc 4r1, 1-2570